

**MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
JANUARY 9, 2004**

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met on Friday, January 9, 2004, at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia. This meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Duke Bowen, MFT, Ph.D., Chair
Joan Fryer, LPC, Vice-Chair
Donald M. Syfert, L.P.C.
Eric Groh, LPC
Patricia Harwell, MFT
Mary Alice Merrill, CSW
Christus Powell, MFT
Joyce Evans, Consumer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia Showell, CSW

STAFF PRESENT

Lee Tracy, Executive Director
Stephanie Stubbs, Applications Specialist
Dena Kirkman, Board Secretary
Dominick Crea, Assistant Attorney General

GUESTS

Sue Fort, NASW

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:40 a.m. motion Harwell, seconded Powell, and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2-(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Bowen, Fryer, Groh, Evans, Syfert and Merrill. The Board **concluded** **Executive Session** in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.

OPEN SESSION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter presenting an ethical dilemma to the Board. Response was to refer the writer to the ethical code for the Georgia Licensed Professional Counselors and to send the writer a complaint form if she believed that a complaint needs to be filed.

GAMFT recommends that the Marriage and Family Therapists Standards Committee designate one of its members to report all disciplinary sanctions, once ordered, to the AAMFT's Ethics Coordinator. Response is that there is not a mechanism for reporting disciplinary actions taken by the Board. Minutes of the Board meetings are available on the website for anyone to review.

Copy of letter sent to The Pastoral Institute from a licensed psychologist questioning the ethical standards of an intern employed by the institute. Response is to acknowledge receipt of letter and say that it is out of jurisdiction of the Board.

Copy of letter sent to an LMFT from the parent of a child who was treated by the LMFT. Response is to acknowledge receipt of the letter and send official complaint forms for the parent to complete.

Letter from Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution is to be handled by the Assistant Attorney General's office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tracy brought to the Board's attention House Bill 625 to amend Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The Bill will provide for temporary permits for foreign-born professional counselors for whom English is a second language to practice as professional counselors. Ms. Tracy also brought to the attention of the Board members House Bill 717 which would give Psychologists limited prescriptive authority.

MINUTES

Motion Powell, seconded Evans and motion carried, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2003 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE BOARD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

Motion Powell, seconded Syfert and motion carried to accept the **Marriage and Family Therapy Standards Report.**

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Laurie Bajalia	Approved	Hal Runkel	Approved
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Motion Syfert, seconded Evans and motion carried to accept the **Licensed Professional Counselors Report.**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

Aimee Bellmore	Approved	Shawn Hensley-Meyers	Approved
Josephine Kirkup	Approved	Shelly Shockley	Approved
Tyrone Oliver	Approved		

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

Colleen Higgins	Approved	Kimberli Patrick	Approved
John Maddox	Denied	Deborah Barksdale	Approved
Joseph Martin	Approved	Leslie Walters	Denied
Robert Clemons	Approved	William Perez	Denied
Howard Whitfield	Approved	Stacy Manger	Approved
David Ethridge	Approved	Melissa Ragsdale	Approved
Dennis Aspy	Approved	Angela MacDougall	Approved
Mitchell Ferguson	Approved	Patricia Radford	Approved
Elvie Campbell	Approved		

CHANGE OF SUPERVISOR/DIRECTOR

Patricia Cornett	Approved	Ricky Baker	Approved
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REINSTATEMENT

Cheryl Tobey	Denied
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Due to there being no quorum present to review applications, Board acceptance of the **Social Workers Report** is delayed until February board meeting at which time applications will have been reviewed by a second social worker.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

COMP030037 File to be sent to the Attorney General's office for Consent Order.

COMP040005 Case closed with Letter of Concern.

Motion Harwell, seconded Syfert and motion carried to accept the Investigative Committee's report.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Dominick Crea, Attorney General, updated the Board on cases in his office.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Syfert, and seconded Powell, to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Lee Bowen, MFT, Chair
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS, AND MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Mollie L. Fleeman, J.D., Director
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS
DIVISION

Recorded and prepared by Dena Kirkman, Board Secretary and Stephanie Stubbs, Applications Specialist. Edited by Lee Tracy, Executive Director.